

INDUCED TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCY

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Induced Termination of Pregnancy Surveillance

An *induced termination (abortion)* is the intentional interruption of a pregnancy with the objective of preventing a live birth. Abortion surveillance provides information useful in identifying population groups experiencing unintended pregnancies. Such information is valuable in targeting pregnancy prevention programs.

Source of Data: Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy

Induced termination information presented in this report is gathered from data recorded on the *Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy* forms, filed for abortions that occurred in Louisiana in the 2001 calendar year. All original Induced Termination forms are routed to the Vital Records Registry in New Orleans. Louisiana law requires that the attending physician report each induced termination of pregnancy that occurs in the state to the Vital Records Registry within 15 days of termination of the pregnancy.

Although some states notify Louisiana of out-of-state pregnancy terminations obtained by Louisiana residents, Louisiana cannot reciprocate. A federal court decision prohibits the collection of residency information on women who terminate pregnancies within the state. Hence, no accurate counts of the number of terminations among Louisiana residents are available. Counts used in this chapter represent terminations that occurred in Louisiana, and include out-of-state residents who obtained induced terminations in Louisiana.

INDUCED TERMINATION COUNTS

There were 10,932 induced terminations of pregnancy reported in Louisiana in 2001. This was 452 fewer than the 11,384 induced terminations of pregnancy reported in Louisiana in the previous year, representing a reduction of 4.0% between 2000 and 2001.

The age group encompassing women 20-24 years is historically the group with the highest number of abortions; in 2001, women in this age group accounted for more than one-third (36.6%) of all abortions. Women under 15 years of age obtained 0.8% of all abortions. The

largest decline in the annual number of reported abortions in the past decade has been reported among women under the age of 20 years (Table A1).

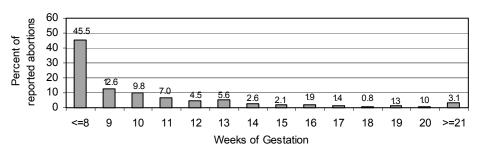
Table A1.

Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Age Group
Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 1991-2001

		Age in Years											
Year	Total	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unknown			
1991	12190	128	2562	4221	2549	1543	878	260	13	36			
1992	12468	191	2597	4288	2571	1683	838	237	15	48			
1993	12373	157	2487	4300	2543	1667	917	259	15	28			
1994	12154	169	2500	4215	2505	1517	929	257	17	45			
1995	11491	141	2333	3895	2428	1468	936	226	11	53			
1996	11884	143	2489	4083	2553	1417	876	262	16	45			
1997	11739	147	2285	4087	2650	1375	849	265	22	59			
1998	11351	120	2238	3818	2538	1386	829	262	13	147			
1999	12008	103	2234	4253	2761	1435	903	236	13	70			
2000	11384	115	2045	4133	2618	1364	800	238	7	64			
2001	10932	85	1868	4001	2611	1378	700	238	13	38			

An *early abortion* is one that is performed at or before 8 weeks gestation. A *late abortion* is one that is performed at or after 16 weeks gestation. There were 4,971 early abortions reported in Louisiana, which was 45.5% of the total reported. The 1,038 reported late abortions comprised 9.5% of the total reported (*Figure A1*). Younger women (under

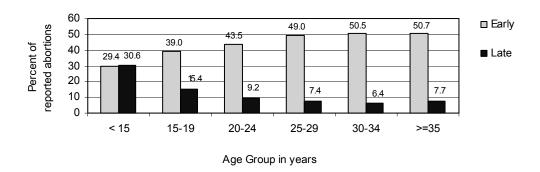
Figure A1. Percents of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Single Weeks of Gestation at the Time of the Termination Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 2001



age 20 years) were more likely to obtain late abortions than older women

(over 20 years) were. (See Figure A2 and Table A3, on page 76).

Figure A2. Percents of Women Who Obtained Early* and Late**
Abortions by Age Group of Women
Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 2001



The suction procedure was used in 87% of reported abortions in Louisiana (Table A2).

Table A2.
Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Weeks of Gestation and Type of Procedure
Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 2001

Weeks of		Curettage			trauterine nstillation			Dilation and		
Gestation	Total	Suction	Sharp	Saline	Prostaglandin	Hysterotomy	Hysterectomy	Evacuation	Other	Unknown
All	10932	9462	221	0	0	0		816	100	333
8 & under	4971	4528	99	0	0	0	0	134	73	137
9	1375	1220	27	0	0	0	0	72	0	56
10	1076	953	18	0	0	0	0	59	0	46
11	764	697	11	0	0	0	0	40	0	16
12	494	422	15	0	0	0	0	35	0	22
13	617	569	10	0	0	0	0	24	0	14
14	288	244	8	0	0	0	0	25	0	11
15	233	203	5	0	0	0	0	13	****	11
16	211	145	8	0	0	0	0	49	****	7
17	149	60	****	0	0	0	0	73	****	10
18	92	44	****	0	0	0	0	44	****	***
19	137	60	****	0	0	0	0	70	5	0
20	109	65	****	0	0	0	0	38	****	****
21 & over	340	186	10	0	0	0	0	140	****	****
Unknown	76	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0

^{****} in cell indicates count is greater than 0 and less than 5.

Table A3 provides summaries by weeks of gestation, race, age group, and marital status by induced terminations reported in Louisiana in 2001.

Table A3.

Number of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy
by Weeks of Gestation, Age, Race, and Marital Status
Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 2001

			Age										Marital Status			
Weeks of			Under	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	40-	45 &						
gestation	Race	Total	15	19	24	29	34	39	44	Older	Unk.	Married	Unmarried	Unknowr		
ALL	All	10932	85	1868	4001	2611	1378	700	238	13	38	734	4153	604		
	White	3921	14	683	1327	880	559	318	124	6	10	375	1524	20:		
	Black & Other	5997	62	993	2291	1516	699	308	95	7	26	243	1862	38		
	Unknown	1014	9	192	383	215	120	74	19	0	****	116	767	1:		
8 & UNDER	All	4971	25	728	1742	1279	696	349	125	8	19	362	1749	28		
	White	1917	6	311	617	455	285	168	70	****	****	202	701	10		
	Black & Other	2713	17	365	1004	745	363	151	46	6	16	121	802	17		
	Unknown	341	****	52	121	79	48	30	9	0	0	39	246			
9	All	1375	7	220	497	315	205	84	38	****	8	94	562	7		
	White	513	****	78	170	116	82	39	21	****	****	45	218	2		
	Black & Other	707	****	111	276	167	98	34	14	0	****	36	227	4		
	Unknown	155	****	31	51	32	25	11	****	0	****	13	117			
10	All	1076	7	169	413	259	128	68	26	****	5	66	475	5		
	White	332	****	59	125	71	42	23	9	0	****	21	150	1		
	Black & Other	620	5	87	240	164	69	37	14	****	****	28	235	3		
	Unknown	124	0	23	48	24	17	8	****	0	****	17	90			
11	All	764	****	123	304	192	84	51	8	0	0	51	279	4		
	White	263	0	45	93	67	34	21	****	0	0	22	100	1		
	Black & Other	413	****	64	176	102	40	25	****	0	0	12	114	2		
	Unknown	88	0	14	35	23	10	5	****	0	0	17	65			
12	All	494	7	93	196	116	42	28	11	****	0	33	236	2		
	White	158	****	26	65	32	14	11	7	****	0	17	81			
	Black & Other	285	3	62	111	69	24	12	****	0	0	9	114	1		
	Unknown	51	****	5	20	15	****	5	0	0	0	7	41	*		
13	All	617	****	128	234	136	73	30	9	0	****	27	182	4		
	White	178	0	40	59	38	23	13	****	0	****	14	54	1		
	Black & Other	391	****	76	150	92	48	14	5	0	****	10	85	2		
	Unknown	48	0	12	25	6	****	****	0	0	0	****	43	*		
14	All	288	****	51	128	61	26	14	5	0	0	15	87	1		
	White	105	0	16	48	22	12	5	****	0	0	7	36			
	Black & Other	151	****	29	69	32	9	7	****	0	0	5	27	1		
	Unknown	32	0	6	11	7	5	****	****	0	0	***	24			
15	All	233	****	56	91	45	23	14	0	0	0	7	83	1		
	White	81	0	19	31	11	14	6	0	0	0	0	28			
	Black & Other	127	****	31	49	31	7	5	0	0	0	****	35			
	Unknown	25	0	6	11	****	****	****	0	0	0	****	20	*		

Table A3. **Number of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy** by Weeks of Gestation, Age, Race, and Marital Status Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 2001

,	Race All White	Total 211	Under 15	15-	20-	25-								
16	All White		15			25-	30-	35-	40-	45 &				
,	White	211		19	24	29	34	39	44	Older	Unk.	Married	Unmarried	Unknown
			6	46	76	39	22	17	5	0	0	13	56	142
	DI 1 0 011	74	0	14	25	9	14	9	****	0	0	6	17	51
	Black & Other	115	5	26	45	25	6	7	****	0	0	****	20	91
	Unknown	22	****	6	6	5	****	****	****	0	0	****	19	0
17	All	149	****	38	48	43	8	7	****	0	****	8	55	86
`	White	36	0	13	9	7	****	****	****	0	****	6	17	13
!	Black & Other	98	****	23	31	32	****	6	0	0	0	****	24	73
	Unknown	15	****	****	8	****	0	0	0	0	0	****	14	0
18	All	92	****	20	39	15	10	5	****	0	0	13	37	42
,	White	38	0	6	15	8	6	****	0	0	0	9	14	15
!	Black & Other	40	****	11	18	****	****	****	****	0	0	****	16	23
	Unknown	14	0	****	6	****	0	****	0	0	0	****	7	***
19	All	137	****	42	50	23	14	****	****	0	0	7	62	68
,	White	40	0	10	13	9	5	****	****	0	0	5	12	23
	Black & Other	74	****	21	30	11	8	****	0	0	0	****	30	43
	Unknown	23	0	11	7	****	****	****	0	0	0	****	20	****
20	All	109	***	25	42	22	10	6	0	0	0	7	63	39
,	White	34	****	****	9	11	6	****	0	0	0	****	16	14
	Black & Other	51	****	17	18	8	****	****	0	0	0	****	28	21
	Unknown	24	0	****	15	****	****	****	0	0	0	****	19	****
21 & OVER	All	340	8	117	114	51	24	17	8	****	0	21	185	134
1	White	117	0	36	377	16	13	11	****	****	0	11	58	48
ŗ	Black & Other	175	7	64	59	29	8	****	****	0	0	5	88	82
	Unknown	48	****	17	18	6	****	****	****	0	0	5	39	***
UNKNOWN	All	76	****	12	27	15	13	6	0	****	****	10	42	24
ļ	White	35	0	6	11	8	5	****	0	****	****	6	22	7
ļ	Black & Other	37	0	6	15	6	8	****	0	0	0	****	17	16
I	Unknown	****	****	0	****	****	0	****	0	0	0	0	***	***

W=White NW=Non-white UNK=Unknown
**** in cell indicates count is greater than 0 and less than 5.